

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
CONGRESSMAN TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Robert White/Drew Crockett
(202) 225-5074

National Guard Bureau Honors Congressman Davis

Washington, D.C. – The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, presented Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA-11th) the Distinguished Service Award at the State Adjutants General Association meeting on Saturday. The National Guard gave Davis this award in recognition of his role as Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee in shaping historic legislation to strengthen the role of the National Guard for Homeland Defense.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, Congressman Davis has taken a strong interest in ensuring that Guardsmen receive the training and equipment they need to perform their overseas and domestic homeland missions.

“I want to thank the National Guard Bureau and Lieutenant General Blum for this award. Let me also thank the men and women of the National Guard for their dedication and sacrifice during this time of war,” Davis said. “Homeland defense begins at home, and I am glad that our states and their governors will be working more closely with the Department of Defense to help make our country and its people safe.”

In April, Chairman Davis held a hearing to examine issues facing the National Guard by focusing on the tension between the increased reliance on Guards in the war on terrorism and increased responsibilities of Guard units to their state's governors to provide forces for homeland defense and security emergencies, and other traditional state missions.

While the hearing showed that the Army and Air National Guard personnel were making significant contributions to the nation's security, it was less certain that they would be able to continue to be resourced and equipped to fulfill their massive federal responsibilities, as well as the expressed needs of states.

At the hearing, New York Governor George Pataki and several state Adjutant Generals said their states would benefit if Congress amended U.S.C. title 32, which governs domestic use of Guards, to allow Guard members to be put on federally funded duty orders for operational use to support domestic homeland security missions. In title 32, the soldiers remain under the command and control of the Governor. Davis pushed for language to be included in the FY 2005 Defense Authorization bill that amended U.S.C. title 32 to increase the range of homeland defense missions the National Guard can conduct.

“The National Guard is the living embodiment of intergovernmental cooperation and I look forward to seeing this important piece of legislation provide the Guard with more resources for homeland defense and the training they deserve,” Davis added.

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